
26th JANUARY, 1803.

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

4th FEBRUARY, 1803.

Amended, and ordered to be engrossed.

A B I L L

To prevent the importation of Certain Persons, whose admission is prohibited by certain laws of the State Governments.

1 **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,
3 That from and after the first day of April next, no master or cap-
4 tain of any ship or vessel, or any other person, shall import or bring,
5 or cause to be imported or brought, any negro, mulatto, or other
6 person of color, into any port or place of the United States, which
7 port or place shall be situated in any state which by law has pro-
8 hibited or shall prohibit the admission or importation of such negro,
9 mulatto, or other person of color, under the penalty of one thou-
10 sand dollars for each and every negro, mulatto, or other person of

11 color aforefaid, imported or brought into the United States as
 12 aforefaid, to be fued for and recovered by action of debt in any
 13 court of the United States, one half thereof to the use of the
 14 United States, and the other half to the use of any person profe-
 15 cuting for the fame, and in any action brought for the penalty
 16 aforefaid, the person or persons fued fhall be held to fpecial
 17 bail.

1 SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That no fhip or vefel ar-
 2 riving in any of the faid ports of the United States fituated as
 3 aforefaid, and having on board any negro, mulatto, or other
 4 person of color, contrary to the meaning and intention of this act,
 5 or of the laws of the refpective ftates prohibiting the admiffion
 6 or importation of fuch negro, mulatto, or other person of color,
 7 fhall be admitted to an entry. And if any fuch negro, mulatto,
 8 or other person of color fhall be landed from on board any fuch
 9 fhip or vefel in any of the ports aforefaid, or on the coafts of any
 10 ftate prohibiting the admiffion or importation as aforefaid, the
 11 faid fhip or vefel, together with her tackle, apparel and furniture,
 12 fhall be forfeited to the United States ; one half of the nett pro-
 13 ceeds of the fales, on fuch forfeiture, to accrue and be paid over
 14 to fuch person or persons on whole information the feizure fhall
 15 be made.

1 SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That it fhall be the duty
 2 of the collectors and other officers of the customs, and all other
 3 officers of the revenue of the United States in the feveral ports

4 situated as aforefaid, to notice and be governed by the provisions
5 of the laws of the feveral ftates now exifting, prohibiting the admif-
6 fion or importation of any negro, mulatto, or other perfons of
7 color, and they are hereby required and enjoined vigilently to
8 carry into effect the faid laws of faid ftate, conformably to the
9 provisions of this act, any law of the United States to the contrary
10 notwithstanding.